



Pictured right, the Corps of Engineers project execution team enjoyed grand opening festivities at the Mannheim commissary with Gerhard Wart, of Staatliches Hochbauamt Heidelberg, and Armin Lang, Architect for A/E Lang. Pictured from left to right are Hans Deberle, Dave Nichols, Doug Sommer, Martha Schoenthal, Karl Schmel, Otto Schick, Wart and Lang. Pictured right, Commissary Manager Gerlinde Smith puts smooth floors to the test during the grand opening shop-a-thon. *(Photos by Torrie McAllister)*

Customers enjoy Mannheim's state-of-the-art commissary

"The Defense Commissary Agency has customer service on its mind in every detail when it builds a new commissary," said Corps of Engineers Project Engineer Hans Deberle. "The Mannheim commissary floor is just one example. Floors are one of the most important elements of a commissary. They support thousands of shoppers weekly, shelves laden with merchandise, and hand trucks for restocking. They must be durable, easy to maintain, and perfectly smooth to withstand the traffic without cracking over time. We used a laser to test the Mannheim floor for high and low spots. Now there are no bumps ahead for shoppers' carts, for years to come."

The Corps and the German construction administration Staatliches Hochbauamt Heidelberg and DeCA Engineer Rudi Kraemer collaborated to design and build the state-of-the-art American grocery store in Mannheim, in two years. Design firm A/E Lang and construction contractor Bilfinger and Berger worked to incorporate DeCA's latest customer-oriented features throughout the life of the project. The result is that Mannheim, which had one of the most antiquated stores in Europe, now has the best. New commissaries are also under construction in Heidelberg, Vicenza, Aviano, Naples and Sigonella.